

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended): A laminated optical film comprising:

an optical film (1) whose three dimensional refractive index is controlled so that an Nz coefficient represented with $Nz = (nx_1 - nz_1) / (nx_1 - ny_1)$ satisfies a relationship of $Nz \leq 0.9$, when a direction where a refractive index in a film plane gives maximum is defined as X-axis, a direction perpendicular to X-axis as Y-axis, a thickness direction of the film as Z-axis, and refractive indexes in each axial direction are defined as nx_1 , ny_1 , and nz_1 , respectively,

and an optical film (2) that is formed with a material showing optically negative uniaxial property, and being tilting aligned,

and an optical film (3) that satisfies $nx_3 > ny_3 \approx nz_3$ and demonstrates optically positive uniaxial property, when a direction where a refractive index in a film plane gives maximum is defined as X-axis, a direction perpendicular to X-axis as Y-axis, a thickness direction of the film as Z-axis, and refractive indexes in each axial direction are defined as nx_3 , ny_3 , and nz_3 , respectively.

2. (Original): The laminated optical film according to Claim 1, wherein the Nz coefficient of the optical film (1) having the controlled three dimensional refractive index satisfies a relationship of $Nz \leq 0.3$.

3. (Original): The laminated optical film according to Claim 1, wherein the material showing optically negative uniaxial property forming the optical film (2) is a discotic liquid crystal compound.

4. (Original): The laminated optical film according to Claim 1, wherein the material showing optically negative uniaxial property forming the optical film (2) is tilting aligned so that an average optical axis, and a direction of normal line of the optical film (2) give a tilting angle in a range of 5 degrees to 50 degrees.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended): The laminated optical film according to Claim 5 1, wherein the optical film (1) having the controlled three dimensional refractive index is arranged between the optical film (3) showing optically positive uniaxial property and the optical film (2) in which a material showing optically negative uniaxial property is tilting aligned.

7. (Original): An elliptically polarizing plate comprising:

the laminated optical film according to Claim 1 and a polarizing plate.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended): The elliptically polarizing plate according to Claim 8 7, wherein the polarizing plate is laminated on a side of the optical film (3) of the laminated optical film.

10. (Previously presented): An image display comprising the laminated optical film according to Claim 1.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented): An image display comprising the elliptically polarizing plate according to Claim 7.

13. (Canceled)

14. (New): The image display of claim 12, wherein the laminated optical film is disposed on one side of a liquid crystal cell.

15. (New): The image display of claim 14, wherein the laminated optical film is mounted on a backlight side of the liquid crystal cell.

16. (New): The laminated optical film according to Claim 6, wherein the Nz coefficient of the optical film (1) having the controlled three dimensional refractive index satisfies a relationship of $N_z \leq 0.3$.

17. (New): The laminated optical film according to Claim 6, wherein the material showing optically negative uniaxial property forming the optical film (2) is a discotic liquid crystal compound.

18. (New): The laminated optical film according to Claim 6, wherein the material showing optically negative uniaxial property forming the optical film (2) is tilting aligned so that an average optical axis, and a direction of normal line of the optical film (2) give a tilting angle in a range of 5 degrees to 50 degrees.

19. (New): An elliptically polarizing plate comprising:

the laminated optical film according to Claim 6 and a polarizing plate.

20. (New): The elliptically polarizing plate according to Claim 19, wherein the polarizing plate is laminated on a side of the optical film (3) of the laminated optical film.

21. (Previously presented): An image display comprising the laminated optical film according to Claim 6.

22. (New): An image display comprising the elliptically polarizing plate according to Claim 19.

23. (New): The image display of claim 22, wherein the laminated optical film is disposed on one side of a liquid crystal cell.

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24. (New): The image display of claim 23, wherein the laminated optical film is mounted on a backlight side of the liquid crystal cell.